

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

2017 VOLUNTEER GROUP CATALOG



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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Volunteer Program Office
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

Dear Potential Volunteer Group,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Rocky Mountain National Park! 2017 is an exciting year to be a part of the action at Rocky!

Rocky Mountain National Park is home to one of the most dynamic and hard-working volunteer programs in the National Park Service. Each year, Rocky utilizes volunteer groups to augment paid-staff on various projects. It's a great way for the park to get projects done AND for groups to enjoy Rocky in a unique, service-oriented fashion.

In 2016, over 1,600 volunteers served at Rocky by taking part in a group volunteer opportunity. We hosted volunteers from all over the US, as well as two international groups! This year, we have opportunities for groups ranging in size from 2-40 people (depending on the project and including any adult leaders). If your group is smaller or larger than the posted size, or you have members of the group that are under the age limit (12-16 years old, depending on the project), please contact the Volunteer Office directly to see if we can accommodate you. We're willing to get creative to see if we can accommodate your group. Please check out the following pages of this document to get familiar with specific volunteer opportunities, logistics, safety information and more.

Once you have considered the information in this packet and would like to volunteer at Rocky, please fill out the attached project request form. Apply for the opportunity you're group is most interested in, and please also provide an alternative project (or two) in the case that your first choice has already been assigned to a group. Please submit the application via email or mail to the volunteer office. Upon receipt, you will receive an email or call from the Volunteer Office for confirmation, as well as to give you an idea of if/when your project will be scheduled.

Remember, an application does not guarantee a project. Please wait for paperwork from the volunteer office before making plans for your project. Group projects will be assigned in the order that the applications are received.

Thank you again for your interest in volunteering with your group at Rocky Mountain National Park!

Sincerely,

Lindsey Lewis
Volunteer Program Manager

Volunteer Office Contact Information

Although the Volunteers In Parks Office is open M-F all year, please call ahead to make sure someone will be there if you are planning on stopping by. We are in and out of the office with volunteers quite a bit!

Address:
RMNP VIP Office
1000 Highway 36
Estes Park, CO 80517

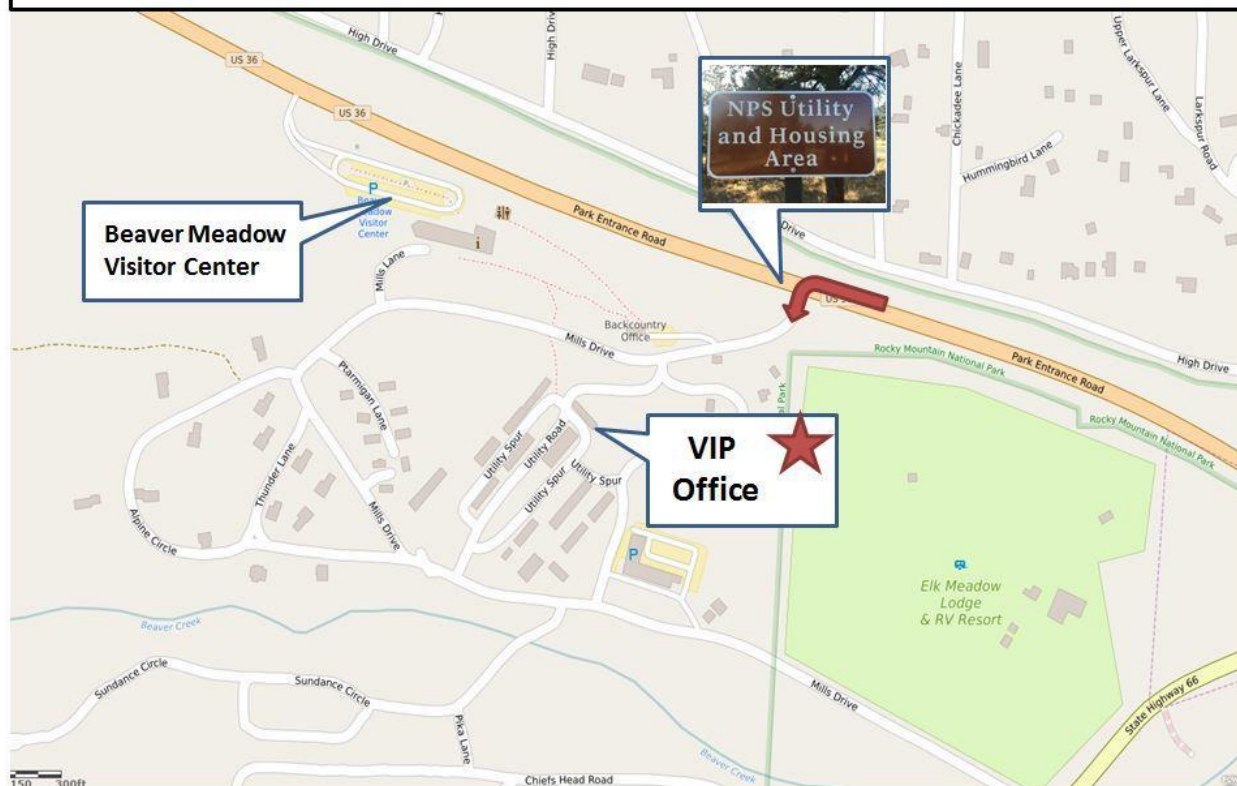
Phone:
970-586-1330

Email:
romo_volunteers_in_parks@nps.gov

Website:
<https://www.nps.gov/romo/getinvolved/supportyourpark/group-volunteer.htm>



RMNP Volunteers in Parks Office



Volunteer Projects

Logistics

- **Group Size:** 2-40 people**
- **Minimum Age:** 12 years old **
 - o Volunteer groups bringing children need to provide one adult leader for every five volunteers under the age of 18.
- **Time Options:** 8:00-3:00, 9:00-4:00, 9:00-1:00**
- **Vehicles:** Groups will need to provide own transportation to and from work site, carpooling is highly encouraged due to limited parking!

Logistics can be flexible; if your group has different parameters call the Volunteer Office and we'll try to work something out!

VEGETATION

****All projects are a minimum of 4 hours and start at either 8:00am or 9:00am**

****Minimum age is 12 (16 for greenhouse)**

****Maximum group size 20**

Days of projects: Mondays-Thursdays, June 5th through September 28th (except holidays)



The actual project work will be based on park need, this typically is Invasive Plant work!

Invasive plants are spreading throughout the park and are crowding out native species and reducing high quality wildlife habitat. Volunteers are needed to hand pull invasive plants from the ground, dig up plants with a shovel, and clip and bag flower heads of certain species. Hiking, kneeling, bending, standing and digging for long periods of time may be required. Most sites are in the montane regions of the park, consisting of campgrounds, roadsides, and also meadows with sweeping vistas.

OR

Help park revegetation staff plant native plants in one of several restoration sites. Sites may vary from alpine Tundra to montane meadows to campgrounds and roadsides. Volunteers are needed to spread topsoil, rake and prepare planting surfaces, install erosion control, sow seeds, harvest willows, plant native plants, and water restoration sites.

OR

Help the park's greenhouse staff grow tens of thousands of native plants for restoration projects throughout the park. Volunteers are needed to transplant seedlings into larger pots, water native plants, clean seeds, mix soil and help with general upkeep of the nursery. Actual duties will depend on the varying needs of the greenhouse at the time of the project.

TRAILS

****All projects are a minimum of 4 hours**

****Minimum age is 12**

****Maximum group size 20+ (Trails can accommodate larger groups)**

Days of projects: Mondays-Fridays, May 15th - September 29th (except holidays)



Assist Rocky Mountain's Trail Crew with a variety of trail projects for the summer. Projects vary and may include: flood recovery and tread repair on all of the park's accessible front-country trails, including Sprague Lake, Lily Lake and Bear Lake. Volunteers might be doing trail repair / reconstruction, brushing trail corridor, removing trail berm and cleaning trail drainage structures, digging with a shovel, using picks and Pulaski's, doing root removal and possible log check / water bar construction, digging drains, doing temporary heavy lifting while moving logs into place with timber tongs, using word-working skills or using traditional hand tools. Volunteers may potentially hike up to 10 miles in one day and work around heavy machinery.

FIRE FUEL REDUCTION

**** Minimum Age is 16 for Fire Fuel Projects**

**** Minimum Group Size is 10 people**

**** Time Options are 9:00-4:00 & 9:00-1:00**

Days of projects: Mondays-Sundays, May 15th - September 30th (except holidays)



Help Rocky's Wildland Firefighters fight the next wildfire before it starts! We're looking for volunteers to assist our fire crews with fuel reduction projects. Downed trees, limbs and branches need to be collected and stacked into large piles. The following winter, the piles are burned in snowy conditions to help create defensible space around park boundaries and buildings! Volunteers might be hiking up to ½ mile to get to the work site, then hiking around picking up branches, logs and sticks and putting them in piles. This is very arduous work including lifting heavy logs. This is a very important project to help the park and the surrounding communities get ready for the eventual arrival of the next wildfire.

***Note:** This project might change depending on the weather or if our firefighters are called to an active wildfire.*

GENERAL, VARIOUS PROJECTS

Days of projects: Mondays-Fridays, May 15th - September 29th (except holidays)



Litter Clean ups: Assist Rocky Mountain NP staff with a litter clean-up! These projects will be front-country and likely near roads, so it is important that groups with young children bring chaperones (1 for every 5 kids).

Painting: Help Rocky Mountain staff paint benches, cabins, signs, and other structures. Painting skills aren't required but would be helpful.

Various Maintenance Projects: Help Rocky Mountain staff with a variety of Maintenance tasks from building benches, fencing, assists with carpentry or other odd jobs that are essential for the park. Tasks vary and are numerous! Be ready for anything!

Please note that projects may change in scope depending on the needs of the park.

Safety and Weather Conditions

Safety

Volunteers must perform all tasks in a safe manner and follow direction from their NPS Supervisors. If the NPS Supervisors deem the project unsafe or if the volunteer group fails to follow instruction, the NPS Supervisor has the authority to cancel the project at any time.



- A short orientation and safety briefing is given prior to your group starting work.
- Groups are responsible to carry enough food and water (recommended 3 quarts or more) to sustain themselves for up to 8 hours in the field.
- Volunteers must use the appropriate tools for the task and wear the necessary personal protective equipment required for the task. All work tools, gloves, safety vests, and helmets will be provided by the NPS work leader.
- Projects will take place outdoors and conditions will be variable. This may involve hiking over uneven, potentially rocky and wet, slippery terrain. Moderate to strenuous physical exertion may be required.
- Potential hazards include exposure to scratchy or thorny vegetation, irritating vegetation (i.e. knapweed), biting or stinging insects, wildlife, allergens (i.e. pollen, dust, etc.) and other hazards typical of outdoor work environments.
- Project may require ability to lift up to 50 pounds.
- Projects may require hiking and being away from toilet facilities all day.
- Rocky Mountain National Park is a high-elevation park ranging from 7,600 to over 14,000 feet above sea-level. Most volunteer work takes place between 7,600 and 12,000 feet in elevation. Keep this in mind when planning your day here; make sure that you get accustomed to the elevation before your scheduled work day.


Weather

Check the weather conditions and come prepared. In the summer months, it might rain, become very windy, or even very cold and snowy at higher elevations. In contrast, your day of service might be during a warm spell in the park. It's your responsibility to check the weather and plan accordingly by furnishing your own outdoor weather gear to ensure personal safety in extreme cold, extreme heat, rain, snow, and other weather conditions.



What to Wear and Bring

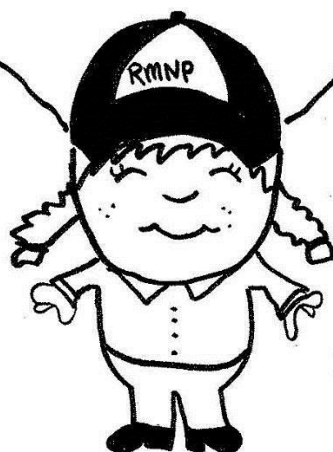
For all projects, we ask that the volunteers wear or bring **long pants, long sleeve shirts, closed-toed shoes or boots, hat, sunglasses, backpack, sunscreen, warm layers, rain gear, lunch/snacks, and water.**



Rocky Mountain National Park Volunteer Checklist

COME PREPARED!

- ☐ LONG SLEEVE SHIRT
- ☐ LONG PANTS
- ☐ CLOSE-TOED SHOES/BOOTS
- ☐ HAT
- ☐ SUNGLASSES
- ☐ BACKPACK
- ☐ SUNSCREEN
- ☐ QUARTS WATER (96oz)
- ☐ WARM LAYERS
- ☐ RAIN GEAR
- ☐ LUNCH / SNACKS



PAPERWORK TO TURN IN

- ☐ 301A FOR GROUP LEADER
- ☐ 301A FOR EACH PARTICIPANT UNDER 18 (SIGNED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN)
- ☐ 301B PARTICIPANT LIST



2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

Cancellation Policy

Although we realize things come up and cancellations occasionally are unavoidable, we ask that you respect the amount of time and level of commitment that has been put into organizing your volunteer day from park staff.

Also it is important to understand that other volunteer groups seeking to serve on the same day may have been turned away because the day has been reserved for your group.

If a cancellation is necessary, please let us know asap by calling 970-586-1372 and 970-586-1330.

Projects may change depending on the current needs of the park, weather conditions, emergent situations or staffing changes. We will do our best to notify your group a week in advance if your project is scheduled to change.

Camping and Entrance into the Park

1. We may be able to provide your group with free camping in the Administrative Loop of Moraine Park Campground on the east side of Rocky. For volunteer groups requesting projects on the west side of the Continental Divide (nearer Grand Lake) we may provide camping at Timber Creek Campground. **For every four hours of service, groups may be eligible for one night of camping. Free group camping is based on availability.** Please see the camping section of the group application form (to follow) to request your camping.



Also note that all group members staying in a free campsite will be required to participate in the volunteer work. Volunteer groups must provide all of their own camping equipment.

2. The Volunteer Office will provide the group with a **free entrance pass** to the park for the dates of service (this will be emailed to the group point-of-contact ahead of time).

Rocky Mountain National Park

2017 Volunteer Group Project Request Form



Group Name:	Date of Application:
Contact Person:	Contact Email:
City, State:	

Total Number of Volunteers:	Ages of Group Members:
# of Youth*:	# of Adults:

*Note: Volunteer groups bringing children need to provide one adult leader for every five volunteers under the age of 18.

Has this group volunteered in Rocky Mountain National Park in the past? YES ☐ NO ☐

Does the group have the required equipment? (Backpacks, cold weather gear, water bottles, etc.)? YES ☐ NO ☐

List preferred projects & dates **in order of preference:** (We encourage you to list more than one project option, as your first choice may not be available). For every four hours of service, groups may be eligible for one night of free camping.

Volunteer Dates	Project Name	Campsites Needed? (yes or no)	Arrival Date (for camping)	Departure Date (for camping)
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1st Choice

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

Are you interested in a half day project or a full day?

Half Day 9am-1pm ☐ Full Day 8am-3pm ☐ Full Day 9am-4pm ☐ (Half Day 12-4pm ☐ this option is for trails projects only)

Other (please explain) _____

***Note: Most projects require a minimum of 4 hours of service**

Please use the space below to provide additional information, including: what form of transportation you'll have on your volunteer day (coach bus, 15 passenger van, estimate of personal cars, etc.), relevant skill sets/experience, preferences about projects, special needs, etc.

Submit application(s) to:

Email: romo_volunteers_in_parks@nps.gov

Mail: Volunteer Office

Rocky Mountain National Park

1000 Highway 36

Estes Park, CO 80517

Questions? Call the Volunteer Office @ 970-586-1330/1372

May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	16 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	17 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	18 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	19 Fire Fuels Trails General	20 Fire Fuels
21 Fire Fuels	22 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	23 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	24 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	25 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	26 Fire Fuels Trails General	27 Fire Fuels
28 Fire Fuels	29 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	30 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	31 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General			

June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	2 Fire Fuels Trails General	3 Fire Fuels
4 Fire Fuels	5 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	6 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	7 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	8 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	9 Fire Fuels Trails General	10 Fire Fuels
11 Fire Fuels	12 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	13 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	14 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	15 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	16 Fire Fuels Trails General	17 Fire Fuels
18 Fire Fuels	19 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	20 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	21 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	22 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	23 Fire Fuels Trails General	24 Fire Fuels
25 Fire Fuels	26 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	27 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	28 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	29 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	30 Fire Fuels Trails General	

July 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Fire Fuels
2 Fire Fuels	3 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	4 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	5 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	6 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	7 Fire Fuels Trails General	8 Fire Fuels
9 Fire Fuels	10 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	11 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	12 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	13 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	14 Fire Fuels Trails General	15 Fire Fuels
16 Fire Fuels	17 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	18 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	19 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	20 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	21 Fire Fuels Trails General	22 Fire Fuels
23 Fire Fuels	24 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	25 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	26 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	27 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	28 Fire Fuels Trails General	29 Fire Fuels
30 Fire Fuels	31 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General					

August 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	2 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	3 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	4 Fire Fuels Trails General	5 Fire Fuels
6 Fire Fuels	7 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	8 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	9 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	10 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	11 Fire Fuels Trails General	12 Fire Fuels
13 Fire Fuels	14 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	15 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	16 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	17 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	18 Fire Fuels Trails General	19 Fire Fuels
20 Fire Fuels	21 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	22 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	23 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	24 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	25 Fire Fuels Trails General	26 Fire Fuels
27 Fire Fuels	28 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	29 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	30 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	31 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General		

September 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Fire Fuels Trails General	2 Fire Fuels
3 Fire Fuels	4 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	5 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	6 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	7 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	8 Fire Fuels Trails General	9 Fire Fuels
10 Fire Fuels	11 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	12 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	13 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	14 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	15 Fire Fuels Trails General	16 Fire Fuels
17 Fire Fuels	18 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	19 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	20 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	21 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	22 Fire Fuels Trails General	23 Fire Fuels
24 Fire Fuels	25 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	26 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	27 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	28 Fire Fuels Vegetation Trails General	29 Fire Fuels Trails General	30 Fire Fuels